

PRAYER FOR THE MONTH

Lord, ripen the fruits of your spirit within us as you ripen the corn in the July sun; colour our lives with your gifts as you colour our gardens with the tints of high summer; make us accepting of change as terms end and we wait for new beginnings; still our minds as the lazy dog days still our bodies, that we may let go and so re-discover life and wholeness, made holy by you.

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

ASHBOCKING

Christian Aid collections in Ashbocking raised a total of £893 this year (including the tax rebate.) A big thank you to Sarah Wilson for her hard work as coordinator, all who gave and for all those who collected door to door. This was a good result from our community.

The new house-group in Ashbocking has got off to a flying start and would love to welcome new members to study scripture, pray and be together. Please see the note on the next page.

Coffee-mornings are also going well on the first Friday of the month and are well-attended. Newcomers are always welcome. The next one is at Liz and Steve Stegman's on July 3rd at 10:30. The address is Old House Cottage, The Green, Ashbocking. It is on the same side of the road and just round the corner from Nelson Close.

On Sunday 7th June 15 hard-working souls attended the Ashbocking churchyard clear-up. People turned up with mowers, loppers, trimmers, trowels, trailers and barrows and worked extremely hard on a very warm day to clear and tidy the churchyard. It was well worth it with a splendid result. Thanks to all who turned up and gave their time and energy. Thanks also to Kevin Balaam for all the extra work he has put in.

On June the 8th the confirmation group had their last evening in preparation for the baptism and confirmation service on June 21st. We are looking forward to a very special service with Bishop Graeme. We are also looking forward to seeing the new altar frontal being made for us by Chris Garnham, which replaces the present old and very fragile one. Hopefully the weather will be kind to us for the picnic at Otley Hall afterwards. It has been discovered that the last confirmation at Ashbocking was in 1970!

Arrangements are now in progress for the Swilland and Ashbocking Harvest Barn Dance to be held in Henley community centre on Saturday September 26th from 6pm. There will be a two course meal, harvest songs and dancing to Inertia Reel. A bar will be available for the purchase of drinks. Tickets will soon be ready and will be sold door to door, £8 adult, £4 child and £22 for a family of two adults and two children under 16yrs. Keep this date free in your diaries; more information later. Contacts for this event are Ann Kent at Swilland, 01473 785262 and Linda Pollard at Ashbocking, 01473 890836.

Finally we must not forget the annual Suffolk Historic Churches Cycle Ride on Saturday 12th September. It would be fantastic to get an Ashbocking cycling team together, so if you are interested, please contact our co-ordinator, John Pollard on 01473 890836. You can visit as many or as few churches as you are able, but the more you visit the more the sponsorship. I will be manning refreshments at the church on the day if anyone would like to join me for a stint!

Linda Pollard

NEW ASHBOCKING HOMEGROUP

Every 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 10.00am till 12.00

We meet to study scripture, to pray & to discover together
“that for which Christ Jesus has taken hold of us”. (Philippians 3:12)

At 4 The Cottages, Ashley Grange, Ashbocking IP6 9JH

Call Jan or Jon Bates for more information: 01473 892605

CLOPTON

We send our best wishes and prayers to Pam Mullinger and Myrtle Archer who are both in hospital after suffering falls. We hope that their recovery is swift and they will soon be back at home in Clopton.

The craft-morning has been renamed the Hobbies and Social Morning and will run from 10am until noon on the first Wednesday of each month. It is very informal, everyone is very welcome. The numbers attending tend to vary and it would be great to see more people. A decision will be taken next year whether to continue. The July meeting is on Wednesday 1st July in the village hall.

The July coffee-morning will be on Wednesday 15th from 10am until noon in the village hall and will be hosted by Beryl Birchmore.

Doris Main

Church cleaning

Doris Main

Church flowers

Beryl Birchmore

OTLEY

The next big event is the fete on 4th July, beginning at 2 pm, with the usual stalls, dog show, children's fancy dress, egg-throwing, tug o'war, etc. and then, from 5.30, a barbecue and OtleyFest with live music from local musicians. It is a good community event with lots to watch and take part in. As well as pork-rolls, teas and ice-creams, there will be a beer-tent open throughout the day. All we need is fine weather and a good crowd.

The next monthly coffee-morning is on Thursday, 23rd July at Southview, Chapel Road, the home of Anne and Geoff Robinson, where you will have the opportunity to see their lovely garden.

The community payback boys have made a good job of strimming

the churchyard, giving access to the graves but leaving lovely areas of wild flowers and grasses.

Rose Rogerson

Village diary:

2nd July	Friendship Club - cream tea at Wendy Marshall's home
4th July	Otley Fete 2.00pm OtleyFest and BBQ 5.30pm
16th July	Friendship Club

Church Flowers Rose Rogerson/Ruth Farnhill

Church cleaning: 1st/3rd Week Treloars 4th Week Tessa Brown

Sidepersons' Rota:

5 th July	11.00am	Family Service	Ruth Farnhill
19 th July	9.30am	Holy Communion	David Papworth
26 th July	6.30pm	Evensong	Betty David

Christian Aid Collection in Otley

During Christian Aid Week nine volunteers called on almost every household in the village to collect envelopes. The money collected was added to that given at the Christian Aid service and a very worthwhile total of £602.89 was raised.

Requests from various charities arrive in the post almost daily and it is becoming ever more difficult to ask for donations. Many thanks to the Otley Scouts, who delivered most of the envelopes, to the loyal band of collectors and, of course to the parishioners who gave so generously.

Nigel Crowley

Service to celebrate 40 years of Otley Scout Group

On Sunday 7th June over 100 young & old came together at St Mary's to celebrate 40 years of scouting in the village. The church was decorated with bunting in the troop's colours and displays about the group. Beavers, young leaders, Cubs, Scouts and their leaders, as well as past members and well-wishers were there to see Brian Childs receive a county award from the County Commissioner, Jenny Mullins. Brian read and spoke about his

favourite Bible passage, "Be still & know that I am God" and what it and God's grace have meant to him over the years.

The Beavers lead us in singing "If you're happy & you know it...". The Cubs, Martin McKenna and William Hunt amused us with a camp fire sketch about a revolting little green ball. The Scouts gave us a potted history of Scouting in Otley and Brian's enormous contribution. Rory McKenna made a presentation to James Thrun who has designed the new troop badge and thanked Brian for all he has done for Scouts and village. The service concluded with the colours leading Brian out of church to loud applause.

After the service there were festivities in the churchyard. Many stayed to chat over the refreshments and barbeque provided by the church social committee, while others enjoyed their own picnics in the sun. There was a treasure hunt in the church and churchyard and the Scout Group displays and photographs were appreciated. Several children had made parachutes for their teddies, which were dropped from the church tower amid great excitement; some made a premature landing on the north roof but were rescued by a good breeze a little later. There was much laughter, conversation and enjoyment.

Jane Hall

1st. Otley Scout Group report

As part of our 40th.year celebrations 60 Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Young Leaders, parents and Leaders went to Colchester Zoo on Saturday 6th. June, the weather was kind and the animals co-operated (apart from the odd parent) ensuring that we had close-up views of lions, tigers, rhinoceroses, giraffes and all manner of creatures. At one point whilst watching the gibbons I nearly called for a zoo attendant to get the Young Leaders out of the cage, then realised I was looking at the gibbons. Actually, their behaviour wasn't that bad - the gibbons' that is.

This was followed by the service of thanksgiving on Sunday 7th. June to thank God for overseeing the Group for all these years. It was a thrill to see so many people and to renew old acquaintances,

some going back nearly forty years. I really felt privileged to be part of a community that wanted to come together for this service. When it came to past and present Scouting members renewing the Scout promise, I was filled with joy to see nearly the whole congregation stand to make the Scout sign and renew their promise; it showed how Scouting has touched so many lives. I wonder if Lord Baden Powell realised just how special a movement he had started.

12th to 14th June was Cub camp. We revelled in thunder and plenty of rain, but it wasn't torrential. The Cubs enjoyed an aerial runway, grass-sledding, canoeing, soaking Akela, a camp fire and numerous games in the woods. Despite the rain it was a marvellous camp, thanks to Kev and Jayne Jackson who worked so hard.

My thanks to you all in this community for the way you have, and do, support Scouting here, but above all else I thank God for His overseeing and love.

Brian Childs

An evening with John Finlinson

John Finlinson is an ex-convict who found his faith in Christ while serving a 6 year prison sentence for a serious crime. On 14th June he visited FFY in the village hall to tell his story and play some of his music. John had a tough childhood and his life spiralled out of control. However, he continued to feel something deep within him and was always interested in truth and whether there was a god who would talk to him and support him. He finally found God in prison when casually reading a Gideon Bible to relieve boredom and ever since then he has been a very committed Christian. He illustrates vividly how his faith has changed his life through his talks and songs. He and his band, Finny Music, visit prisons to tell how Jesus broke his chains and brought him freedom. It was a very inspiring and interesting evening.

Hugh Hall

FFY

A huge thank you to all those who supported FFY's car-boot sale, which raised a fantastic £175 towards our core costs and any trips we take over the summer. We meet every first and third Wednesday from 7 to 9pm in the village hall.

Michelle Boreham and Amy Cranfield

SWILLAND

We were very sad to learn that John Frost has died and send our sympathy to June, Alison and Ian. He had been in hospital since the end of March suffering from the effects of diabetes. John was born and brought up in Grundisburgh with nine brothers and sisters. He and June have lived in what was the old schoolhouse in Swilland for about 50 years. In his younger days he was a member of the TA. He was a leading light in the Grundisburgh Amateur Dramatic Society, where he took many parts, including the dame in several pantomimes. He was also very involved in the setting up of Witnesham Wasps Football Club. He was very keen on his poultry and his cockerel crowing is a familiar sound in Swilland. The number of people at his funeral showed what a popular man he was. He will be much missed by his family and friends.

Illuminati Concert -This will take place on Sunday 12th July at 3 p.m. In Swilland Church. Do come and join us. Tickets are £10 to include an excellent tea and are available from Gill Reidy or me.

Barn Dance - The Swilland and Ashbocking Harvest Barn Dance will take place on Saturday 26th September at Henley Village Hall. Please put this date in your diaries.

Ann Kent

Flower Rota:

28th June - 5th July

Jackie Williams

12 – 19th July

Margo Barker

26th July – 2nd August

Ann Kent

RAINFALL – MAY

May is the month for growth - grass, hedges, trees, flowers and weeds. For this to happen needs plenty of rain and May obliged with consistent but not large quantities at any one time. The month ended with a rainfall total of 2.05 inches and there has been quite a strong growth of all plants this year. This may also be because there haven't been any really hot days to evaporate the moisture from the leaves. Nights were cool in May and average temperatures in the first two weeks of June have also been lower than normal.

Russell Ling

SSAFA FORCES HELP

SSAFA (Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association) is a charity, set up in 1885 to 'help any soldier, sailor or airman and their families, serving or retired, who is in need.' It is the oldest service charity in the British Isles, with approximately 7000 volunteers. There are approximately 500 paid staff stationed with Regular units in UK and overseas, many still uniformed. There are also paid staff in areas of high demand such as Aldershot, Newcastle and Plymouth. SSAFA raised over £10m spread between 100,000 separate grants in 2014.

In 1885 the founder of SSAFA, Colonel Gildea, appealed to the great and the good of certain counties to help the thousands of soldiers' wives and children left behind when their men went to fight with the Expeditionary Force in Egypt. The first county to respond was Kent and the second was Suffolk. In quite a short time other county committees had been set up and Princess Alexandra (the wife of the Prince of Wales, later Edward VII) had agreed to become the first President. To this day, SSAFA operates on a basis of 'almonising' funds from other sources - now largely other charities such as The Royal British Legion and Royal Naval Benevolent Trust. This exempts us from supplying our own funds for clients, and therefore

our public profile is pretty low and any fundraising is kept to a minimum.

As one of the 7000 volunteers, I have been a Case Worker for 16 years, working with the Ipswich Division. The case may be a referral from our London Office, the local Citizens Advice Bureau, Age UK or, usually, a direct phone call to our office in Westerfield. It may be that just a visit is required, but usually assistance is requested. If we can't help, we refer it on to the relevant organisation. We deal mostly with ex-National Service and retired personnel who may need special aids to enhance mobility or house adaptations. It may include furniture, white goods, and holidays. If the client is 'in need', we will help. Quotes for equipment, doctor's and occupational therapy reports are obtained where necessary and our Form A is completed giving all details of service, family, and their financial situation. This is all sent to whichever charity(ies) is relevant. Charities linked to the client's civilian employment are regularly approached so the list of suitable donors can be quite extensive. All this documentation is now passed through the service computer network and results are often very quick. With civilian charities, we revert to paper and Royal Mail!

With ever-reducing numbers of service and ex-service personnel, requests for assistance are getting fewer. As with many charities, SSAFA's future is a little uncertain.

Peter Rogerson

Debenham Group Practice

We are pleased to advise that we have two new members of staff in our dispensary team; Louise Cooper and Sally Prosser. Louise and Sally joined the practice in late June and both are qualified and experienced dispensers. Our current GP Registrar, Dr Alfreda Asare-Botchway will be finishing her six month placement with the practice at the end of July. A new registrar will start with us in early August.

Getting an appointment at the surgery may seem a trial at times. Everyone is fully booked on the day you would like to come. The Practice does monitor the situation, and online bookings can help you see just what is available. However, there is an increasing problem of patients who have booked an appointment but don't attend, which leaves a wasted appointment that another patient could have been given, and a frustrated clinician.

The six practices which make up Deben Health Group are now actively looking more closely at this problem, analysing trends and working to developing a joint policy to try to reduce wasted appointments. Technology today gives us better communication, but it isn't a one-way process. Please be a responsible member of your community and considerate of other patients and of the Practice. If you can't attend your appointment, please contact the surgery in good time. One day you may be glad to fill an appointment your neighbour cancelled.

If you are interested in joining our Patient Practice Group we would love to hear from you. Please contact Jean Housley, Chairman
PPG: jbhous1950@btinternet.com

The Suffolk Singers

SUFFOLK SINGERS' "Make a Difference" concert for the Teenage Cancer Trust will be on Sunday 5 July at 7.00pm in Woodbridge Community Centre. Tickets are £12.50 with table seating to include a light supper of savoury and sweet refreshments - bring your own drinks. Advance booking is advisable and tickets can be purchased by phoning [01473 635525](tel:01473635525), or from Browsers Bookshop, 60 Thoroughfare or Woodbridge Violins, 26 Market Hill, Woodbridge.

Tools With a Mission

TWAM urgently needs volunteers to help in Ipswich on a day or two once a quarter to send out its newsletter to members. If you can, please ring Cindy on 01473 210220 or email twamhq@twam.co.uk

Miscellaneous observations:

~ I'm supposed to respect my elders, but it's getting harder and harder for me to find one now.

~ If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.

~ A bus station is where a bus stops. A train station is where a train stops. On my desk, I have a work station.

~ Why do Americans choose from just two people to run for President and 50 for Miss America?

~ To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.

~ Where there's a will, I want to be in it.

~ In filling out an application, where it says, "In case of emergency, notify ..." I answered, "a doctor."

~ Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

~ I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.



TAKING & GIVING

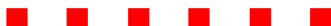
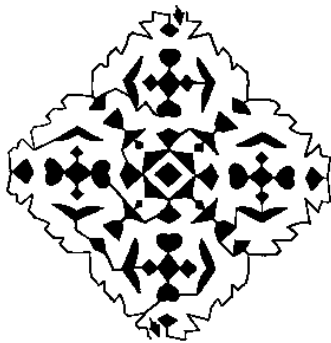
If you look at a map of Israel you will see that there are two small inland seas. And if you look closely you will see that these two seas are linked by the River Jordan. The river starts in the northern hills and goes through the Sea of Galilee, then through the Jordan valley, and ends up in the Dead Sea. But even though the water is all from the same river, the two seas are completely different.

All around the Sea of Galilee are towns and villages, trees and farms. The Dead Sea has no trees or farms, it is dead. What makes the difference? The Sea of Galilee is alive because it has an outlet. It passes the water on as quickly as it flows in. The Dead Sea is dead because it passes no water on.

In St Luke's Gospel we read what Jesus said about giving – 'Give to others, and God will give to you' (chapter 6, verses 27-28). Unlike the two seas we can choose how we want to be: to give and take and be alive. Or just to take - and become sad and lifeless.

IN & OUT

Can you find your way through this lacy maze?



Did you hear about the slimy monster who was famous for his farmyard impressions?

He couldn't do the noises but he could do the smells.



And what about the monster who went shop-lifting?

He was crushed under Tesco's.



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